



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Health
Department
Department No.: 041
For Agenda Of: September 13, 2011
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Takashi Wada, MD, MPH, Director & Health Officer
Director(s) Public Health Department
Contact Info: Ana Stenersen (681-4026)
SUBJECT: Acceptance of a One-Time Grant to Purchase Therapy Equipment

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors consider recommendations as follows:

- a) Authorize the Public Health Department Director to accept a \$15,000 grant from the Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation to be used for the purchase, installation and evaluation of therapy equipment for adolescents in the California Children's Services program.
- b) Determine that these activities are exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review per CEQA Guideline Section 15061(b)(3), since it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activities may have a significant effect on the environment.

Summary Text:

The Public Health Department's California Children's Services (CCS) program applied for, and was awarded, a \$15,000 grant from the Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation. By accepting this grant, CCS will have dedicated, one-time funding to purchase and install new therapy equipment specifically targeting adolescents receiving physical and occupational therapy at the Santa Barbara Medical Therapy Unit (MTU).

Background:

One component of the CCS program is the Medical Therapy Unit (MTU), which provides physical and occupational therapy for children under the age of 21 with neuromuscular, musculoskeletal or muscular

disease. Examples of the life-long physical disabilities treated are cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and spina bifida. The program is designed to assist children and adolescents with improving their physical functionality, social engagement and personal independence. This MTU component of the program is a joint effort between the Public Health Department (PHD) and the local school districts. The MTUs are located at school facilities. Most of the current equipment is small in size and geared toward elementary school children. The program has a shortage of age-appropriate therapy equipment for adolescents.

The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation (SDRF) is a family foundation based in New York City that began operation in 1995. SDRF's mission is to support innovative efforts to make social organizations and institutions more effective and more responsive to a broad range of human needs. SDRF interests include, but are not limited to: public health and sanitation; education; support for new media; preservation of traditional and local artisans and their economies; AIDS and its effects on society's institutions; and at-risk children and families. Acceptance of this grant will improve the therapists' ability to engage adolescent clients and provide accommodations for their physical limitations and the opportunity for better exercise and age-appropriate activity.

Fiscal Analysis: Authorization of the Public Health Department Director to accept the \$15,000 grant from the Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation does not affect mandates or service levels, but will enhance the quality of therapy for adolescents at the Santa Barbara MTU. The funds will be used to purchase therapy equipment and evaluate the effectiveness of its usage. Ongoing maintenance of the equipment will be a joint effort of the Public Health Department and the Santa Barbara Unified School District. Acceptance of this grant will not increase the general fund contribution.

Special Instructions:

Please send an electronic copy of the Minute Order to the PHD Contracts Unit at: PHDCU@sbcphd.org

Authored by:

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